

COUNTRY East Germany SECURITY INFORMATION REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

TOPIC General Military Information

EVALUATION see below PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1A

DATE OF CONTENT 27 January to 13 February 1953

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 4 March 1953

REFERENCES 25X1A

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS _____

25X1X

SOURCE

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

1. On 27 January 1953, about 60 trucks passed through Lieberose on Highway No 168, coming from the direction of Frankfurt/Oder and proceeding toward the troop training grounds. They carried personnel except for 10 to 12 trucks with straw bales and a column carrying bridge building equipment. [REDACTED]

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Between 7 and 9 p.m. on 30 January, tanks passed through Lieberose in the direction of the troop training grounds. Firing with live ammunition of artillery was repeatedly heard from the direction of Reicherskreuz-Pinnow prior to 12 February. Tanks practiced in the terrain west of the Lieberose-Peitz road.¹

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[REDACTED]

2. In the morning of 5 February, personnel and 10 trucks [REDACTED] each carrying one pontoon were entrained on 3 boxcars and 10 flatcars with sideracks at the Eberswalde railroad station. The shipping document indicated that the shipment came from Beeskow. Between 2 and 10 p.m. on 6 February, personnel and 9 trucks [REDACTED] each carrying one pontoon were loaded on 2 flatcars with sideracks and 9 flatcars with sideracks respectively. The shipping document indicated that the shipment went to Beeskow.²

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[REDACTED]

3. Field exercises involving 60 T-34 tanks, 20 SP guns and an undetermined number of AA guns, AT guns and field guns were conducted in the Schwerin-Ludwigslust area from 7 to 9 February and on 12 February. The units bivouacked in the open. Senior officers from Schwerin were present. Extensive traffic of trucks carrying personnel to the Moltke Kaserne in Schwerin and on the dirt road to Hagenow was observed upon completion of the exercise on 12 February. In the evening of 15 February, 7 boxcars were loaded with 40 to 50 soldiers each; and 20 flatcars with sideracks with 8 x 37-mm AA guns, 10 three-axle trucks and 8 trucks with 2 field kitchens at the Wismar railroad station. The train was bound for Dallgow-Doberitz. [REDACTED] A railroad employee stated that 31 boxcars for military shipments were made available in Nauen since 13 February.³

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- 25X1A 1. Comment. A source in Fuerstenwalde reported that the units of the 7th Gds Mecz Div which had been assembled for practices at the Lieberose troop training grounds in January 1953 returned to Fuerstenwalde on 6 February and that the troop training grounds was occupied by only a small guard detail after that date. It is possible that the troops observed prior to that date belong to units in Fuerstenwalde; for example, the bridge building column may belong to the 122th (?) Gds Engr Bn. Only units of the division from Frankfurt/Oder probably practiced at the troop training grounds after 6 February.
- 25X1A 2. Comment. There was reason for believing that units of the 3d Engr Regt of the Fourth Gds Mecz Army were in Beeskow since January 1953, probably for practices on the Oder-Spree-Canal northeast of Beeskow. Another source, although on 6 February 1953, also reported the return of units which probably belonged to this regiment. Other shipments which, according to the present report, again went to Beeskow on 6 February were also previously reported.
- 25X1A 3. Comment. Other information indicated that the winter exercises of the Third Shock Army in the area southeast of Schwerin lasted until 14 February. This was indicated for example by return shipments of the units involved such as the headquarters units of the Third Shock Army and the IV Arty Corps. Although the present report indicates that the exercises began on 7 February, the shipments of the afore mentioned units went to the area southeast of Schwerin only on 9 and 10 February. Tank units of the 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div were even entrained for these exercises in Schwerin only on 12 February. The exercises may, therefore, have lasted from about 10 to 14 February. They probably involved elements of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps as well as the units mentioned. The AAA shipment for Doeberitz which was observed along with return shipments at the end of the exercises cannot be accounted for.

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